

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 AGENDA**

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
<p>Execution of a Historic Preservation Easement for the U.S. Arsenal Building and the grounds in front and behind the building.</p> <p>Submitted By:</p> <p>Parks & Recreation Department</p>	<p>Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution Approval Information Report</p>	<p>Bruce T. Moore City Manager</p>

SYNOPSIS	<p>A resolution to execute a Historic Preservation Easement on the U.S. Arsenal Building and on a portion of the grounds around its circular drive as well as the grounds behind the building and accepting requirements by Department of Arkansas Heritage on relic hunting within the easement.</p>
FISCAL IMPACT	<p>The Department of Arkansas Heritage has awarded the City a grant for \$100,000.00 as part of a restoration project of the building.</p>
RECOMMENDATION	<p>Approval of the resolution.</p>
BACKGROUND	<p>Earlier this year, the City was awarded a Historic Preservation Restoration Grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage in the amount of \$100,000.00 to restore the north and south porch decks and work on the ADA lift access of the U.S. Arsenal Building of the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History. One of the conditions of the grant requires the City to provide a Conservation Easement, called a Historic Preservation Easement, on the façade of the Arsenal and on certain parts of the grounds. The easement places limits on changes to the appearance and structure of the museum and will require that it be maintained according to the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior Standards.</p>

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

The inclusion of the surrounding grounds will protect the view of the front of the building and prevent the disruption of historic archaeology left behind by military troops.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has requested the Façade Easement include the following verbiage regarding archeological excavation and relic hunting on the property covered by the easement:

1. Any and all ground disturbing activities or earth removal on the property, may require archeological survey and/or investigation if, in the opinion of AHPP, if it may impact the historic battlefield landscape, existing historic buildings, structures, or archeologically significant deposits, sites or features on the property. More intensive investigation may be required by AHPP if such survey or investigation is necessary to identify, protect, preserve or recover archeologically significant deposits, sites or features. Such survey or investigation shall be completed prior to the commencement of the proposed ground disturbing activity.
2. Archeological investigation may be undertaken on the property only if a scope of work for such is approved in writing in advance by AHPP and only if it is performed in accordance with the Secretary's Standards and under the supervision of a professionally qualified archeologist. Any investigation shall be designed to protect, preserve, and/or recover archeologically significant deposits, sites, or features in the area of the proposed ground disturbing activity. It shall be completed prior to the commencement of the proposed ground disturbing activity.
3. Artifacts, both prehistoric and historic, recovered from the property after the effective date shall remain the personal property of the City of Little Rock, unless otherwise provided by law. Grantor may choose to donate any or all artifacts to AHPP or to another educational or museum organization with the prior written approval of AHPP. All artifacts professionally excavated from archeological deposits, sites, or features on the property shall be preserved according to the State Plan for the Conservation of Archeological Resources, as amended.

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

4. Grantor shall take all reasonable precautions to protect archeological deposits, sites or features on the property from looting, vandalism, erosion, mutilation, or destruction from any cause. Grantor shall notify AHPP as soon as practicable but within thirty (30) calendar days following discovery or knowledge of any looting, vandalism, erosion, mutilation, or destruction of archeological deposits, sites, or features on the property.
5. No archeological activities of any kind, including but not limited to the use of non-invasive technologies, may take place on the property without the express written consent of AHPP. Relic hunting of any kind on the property is expressly prohibited.